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Howard N. Sommers

Howard N. Sommers, Registration No. 24,138 Date: December 18, 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)	
)	Examiner:
Inventor: Rosin et al.)	
)	Group Art Unit:
Serial Number:)	
)	Docket No. SONYA-56320
Filing Date:)	
)	Date: December 18, 2000
For: WEB CHANNEL GUIDE GRAPHICAL)	
USER INTERFACE SYSTEM AND)	
METHOD)	
_____)	

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in connection with a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b), based on Serial No. 09/201,020, filed November 30, 1998, and is responsive to the Final Office Action of September 18, 2000 in the '020 parent application. It is requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered after granting a filing date to the continuation application. The continuation application transmittal form and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently herewith under 37 CFR§ 1.53(b).

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, before the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" add:

- -RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of application Serial
No. 09/201,020 filed November 20, 1998- -

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 2-56.

Please enter the new claims 57-105 as follows:

57. A system for enabling a user to select among and access one of a plurality of Internet websites, comprising:

a graphical user interface, which includes:

means for enabling selection of and access to one of a plurality of Internet websites;

means for enabling selection of and access to one of an array of web channels upon actuating the Internet website selection-access enabling means, wherein each web channel includes a plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and a plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category; and

means for enabling customization of at least one of the array of web channels upon actuating the web channel selection-access enabling means so as to enable selection of one of the plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and one of the plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category.

58. The system of claim 57, wherein the graphical user interface further includes a web channel guide, in which the array of the web channels is presented.

59. The system of claim 57, further comprising a plurality of web channel buttons, each of which is adapted to be associated with one of the array of the web channels.

60. The system of claim 57, further comprising means for enabling the user to customize the at least one of the plurality of Internet websites associated with each of the array of the web channels.

61. The system of claim 57, further comprising means for enabling the user to navigate among the array of the web channels.

62. The system of claim 57, further comprising means for displaying the graphical user interface.

63. The system of claim 57, further comprising means for identifying the web channel being presented, upon presenting the web channel.

64. The system of claim 57, further comprising means for enabling the associating means to access an Internet website selected by the user.

65. The system of claim 57, further comprising a client device, including an Internet browser for enabling access to and retrieval of the plurality of the Internet websites.

66. The system of claim 57, further comprising means for enabling the user to navigate among the plurality of the Internet websites associated with each of the plurality of the web channels, and to obtain access to each of the plurality of the associated Internet websites.

67. The system of claim 57, further comprising means for enabling the displaying of the web channel guide, wherein the displaying enabling means are further adapted to enable the displaying of the plurality of the associated Internet websites.

68. The system of claim 57, further comprising a client device, and means for enabling a plurality of the Internet websites associated with the plurality of the web channels to be downloaded and stored in the client device.

69. The system of claim 57, wherein each of the plurality of the web channels comprises one of a plurality of the Internet websites commonly accessed by the user.

70. The system of claim 57, wherein each of the plurality of the Internet websites comprises one of the plurality of the Internet websites selected for the user.

71. The system of claim 57, wherein the plurality of the Internet websites associated with each of the plurality of the web channels comprises a group of the Internet websites categorized for the user based on content.

72. The system of claim 57, wherein the customization enabling means include a plurality of customizing buttons, each of which is adapted to be associated with one of the array of the web channels.

73. The system of claim 57, wherein the customization enabling means include a plurality of category buttons, adapted to be associated with each of the array of the web channels.

74. The system of claim 57, wherein the Internet website access enabling means comprise a guide button, the web channel access enabling means comprise a web channel guide window, adapted to be accessed upon actuation of the guide button, including an array of web channel buttons, each associated with a web channel and adapted to be actuated to enable access to the associated web channel, and an array of

customization buttons, each associated with one of the array of web channel buttons, and the customization enabling means comprise an Internet program guide window, adapted to be accessed upon actuating one of the array of customization buttons, including an array of selectable category buttons, and an array of website buttons associated with each category button.

75. The system of claim 59, wherein each of the plurality of the web channel buttons includes a web channel number, and a web channel title representing the associated Internet website.

76. The system of claim 61, wherein the navigating enabling means comprise a remote control device.

77. The system of claim 61, wherein the navigating enabling means comprise a keyboard which includes function keys for enabling navigating among the web channels.

78. The system of claim 61, wherein the navigating enabling means comprise a mouse device.

79. The system of claim 61, wherein the navigating enabling means include means for enabling the user to move up and down among the web channels.

80. The system of claim 61, wherein the navigating means include means for enabling direct access to a selected one of the web channels.

81. The system of claim 62, wherein the displaying means comprise a display monitor.

82. The system of claim 62, wherein the displaying means comprise a television display.

83. The system of claim 63, wherein the web channel identifying means comprise a guide strip, adapted to be presented upon presenting the web channel.

84. The system of claim 64, wherein the access enabling means comprise a digital cable system.

85. The system of claim 64, wherein the access enabling means comprise a telephone modem.

86. The system of claim 64, wherein the access enabling means comprise a digital broadcast satellite system.

87. The system of claim 64, wherein the access enabling means comprise a web server.

88. The system of claim 72, further comprising an Internet program guide adapted to be accessible through the graphical user interface through use of one of the plurality of customizing buttons associated with one of the array of web channels.

89. The system of claim 73, wherein each of the plurality of category buttons includes a plurality of Internet website buttons, each of which is adapted to be associated with one of the plurality of selectable Internet websites.

90. The system of claim 65, further comprising means for enabling at least one of the plurality of Internet websites to be downloaded and stored in the client device.

91. The system of claim 75, wherein each of the plurality of the web channel buttons includes a uniform resource locator representing the associated Internet website.

92. The system of claim 83, wherein the guide strip is adapted to include a web channel number, and a web channel title representing the associated web channel.

93. The system of claim 89, wherein each of the Internet website buttons includes an Internet website title representing the associated Internet website.

94. A method of enabling a user to select among and access one of a plurality of Internet websites, in a system which includes a graphical user interface, including means for enabling selection of and access to one of a plurality of Internet websites, means for enabling selection of and access to an array of web channels upon actuating the Internet website selection-access enabling means, wherein each web channel includes a plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and a plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category, and means for enabling customization of at least one of the array of web channels upon actuating the web channel selection-access enabling means so as to enable selection of one of the plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and one of the plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category, wherein the method comprises:

enabling the displaying of the graphical user interface;

enabling the displaying of the array of the web channels;

enabling the user to select one of the array of the web channels and to obtain access to one of the plurality of the related and associated Internet websites; and

enabling the user to customize at least one of the array of web channels.

95. The method of claim 94, wherein the graphical user interface further includes a web channel guide, in which the array of the web channels is presented, and web channel display enabling further comprises enabling the displaying of the web channel guide.

96. The method of claim 94, wherein the system further comprises a plurality of web channel buttons, each of which is adapted to be associated with one of the array of the web channels, and web channel display enabling further comprises enabling the displaying of the plurality of the web channel buttons.

97. The method of claim 94, wherein each of the array of the web channels is adapted to be associated with a plurality of the Internet websites, and web channel display enabling further comprises enabling the selection of one of the plurality of the Internet websites associated with each of the array of the web channels.

98. The method of claim 94, wherein the system further comprises means for enabling the user to navigate among the array of the web channels, and the method further comprises enabling the user to navigate among the array of the web channels.

99. The method of claim 94, wherein the system further comprises means for displaying the graphical user interface, and the method further comprises displaying the graphical user interface.

100. The method of claim 94, wherein the system further comprises means for identifying the web channel being presented upon presenting the web channel, and the method further comprises presenting a web channel and identifying the web channel being presented.

101. The method of claim 94, wherein the system further comprises means for enabling the associated means to access an Internet website selected by the user, and the method further comprises enabling the associating means to access an Internet website selected by the user.

102. The method of claim 94, wherein the system further comprises a client device, including an Internet browser for enabling access to and retrieval of the plurality of the Internet websites, and the method further comprises enabling the Internet browser to access and retrieve the plurality of the Internet websites.

103. The method of claim 94, wherein the Internet website access enabling means comprise a guide button, the web channel access enabling means comprise a web channel guide window, adapted to be accessed upon actuation of the guide button, including an array of web channel buttons, each associated with a web channel and adapted to be actuated to enable access to the associated web channel, and an array of customization buttons, each associated with one of the array of web channel buttons, and the customization enabling means comprise an Internet program guide window, adapted to be accessed upon actuating one of the array of customization buttons, including an array of selectable category buttons, and an array of website buttons associated with each category button, wherein web channel selection and Internet website access comprise actuating the guide button to access the web channel guide window and actuating a selected web channel button, and web channel customization enabling comprises actuating a customization button to access the Internet program guide window, and actuating a selected category button to select an associated website button.

104. A system for enabling a user to select among and access one of a plurality of Internet websites, comprising:
a graphical user interface, which includes:

an Internet website selection-access enabling element for enabling selection of and access to one of a plurality of Internet websites;

a web channel selection-access enabling element for enabling selection of and access to one of an array of web channels upon actuating the Internet website selection-access enabling element, wherein each web channel includes a plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and a plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category; and

a web channel customization enabling element for enabling customization of at least one of the array of web channels upon actuating the web channel selection-access enabling elements so as to enable selection of one of the plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and one of the plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category.

105. A method of enabling a user to select among and access one of a plurality of Internet websites, in a system which includes a graphical user interface, including means for enabling selection of and access to one of a plurality of Internet websites, means for enabling selection of and access to an array of web channels upon actuating the Internet website selection-access enabling means, wherein each web channel includes a plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and a plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category, and a customizing element for enabling customization of at least one of the array of web channels upon actuating the web channel selection-access enabling means so as to enable selection of one of the plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and one of the plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category, wherein the method comprises:

enabling the displaying of the graphical user interface;

enabling the displaying of the array of the web channels;

enabling the user to select one of the array of the web channels and to obtain

access to one of the plurality of the related and associated Internet websites; and
enabling the user to customize at least one of the array of web channels.

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REMARKS

In the Office Action in the parent application, claims 1-3, 5-10, 13, 14, 16-21, 23-27, 29-33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41-50, and 52-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rosin et al. '600.

In the Amendment herein, claims 57 and 94, (which correspond to claims 1 and 47 in the parent application) have been amended and claims 74 and 103-105, (which correspond to claims 57-60 in the parent application) have been added to further clarify and emphasize the features of the invention in light of the Office Action and the cited patent.

In the Office Action in the parent application, it is stated, with respect to the anticipation rejection, that Rosin discloses a client/server system for presenting multimedia information, particularly an integrated Internet on-demand system for television, comprising a user Internet website selection and access system, which includes a graphical user interface, an array of web channels, including selectable web channel associated categories, and selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category, and web channel customization enabling means for enabling selection of a selectable web channel associated category and a selectable category related and associated Internet website. It is further stated therein that Rosin equivalently teaches the claim limitation of the web channel array including the selectable category related and associated Internet websites, by disclosing channels (or array of channels) and selectable web pages. It is also stated therein that Rosin equivalently teaches the claim limitation of the web channel customization enabling means for enabling selection of selectable web channel associated categories and selectable category related and associated Internet websites, by disclosing that the user can refine the channel list for the menu wheel.

Rosin discloses a rotary menu wheel interface, adapted to present Internet content and television programming in a coherent interface, and to enable channel selection from a rotary wheel menu. A user can edit the channels list for the menu wheel, by bookmarking particular web pages or sites to appear as new channels in the menu wheel.

Rosin does not teach the invention as claimed herein, in view of the significant differences between the disclosure therein as set forth above and the invention as claimed herein. Rosin does not teach a graphical user interface including an Internet website selection-access enabling element, and a web channel selection-access enabling element adapted to be accessed upon actuating the Internet website selection-access enabling element, wherein each web channel includes a plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and a plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category, as claimed herein. It further does not teach a web channel customization element for enabling the user to customize at least one of the array of web channels so as to enable selection of one of the plurality of selectable categories associated with the web channel, and one of the plurality of selectable Internet websites related to and associated with each selectable category.

Rosin also does not teach a guide button for enabling selection of and access to one of a plurality of Internet websites, a web channel guide window for enabling selection of and access to an array of web channels upon actuating the guide button, including an array of web channel buttons, each associated with a web channel, and an array of customization buttons each associated with one of the array of web channel buttons, as claimed herein. Rosin further does not teach an Internet program guide window for enabling customization of at least one of the array of web channels upon actuating a customization button, including an array of selectable category buttons, and an array of website buttons associated with each category button.

Rosin only discloses editing the channel list by bookmarking particular web pages to appear as new channels in the menu wheel, contrary to the invention as claimed herein.

It is submitted in view of the above that there is no teaching of applicant's invention as claimed in claims 57-105 herein within the scope of the disclosure of the cited reference, without extensive modification and the exercise of inventive talent. It is further submitted that the dependent claims 58-93 and 95-103 are allowable for the same reasons expressed above regarding their parent independent claims 57 and 94. Therefore the amended and dependent claims 57-105 are submitted to be patentable over the prior art.

It is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If there are any issues which can be discussed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at (310)824-5555 Ext. 732.

Please charge any further fees payable in connection with this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,
FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

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